

Congressman Childers Visits Rural Health Care Centers throughout North Mississippi

August 14, 2008

Washington, DC - Congressman Travis Childers (D-MS) visited rural health care centers throughout Mississippi's First Congressional District on Tuesday and Wednesday as part of National Health Care Week. The Congressman's visits included tours of facilities in Itawamba, Monroe, Marshall, and Benton Counties.

"North Mississippians need and deserve quality, affordable, and accessible health care," said Congressman Childers. "My wife and I have owned and run a nursing center and a personal care home, and we understand how important medical care is to our constituents.

"I'm honored to have met with the staff and administrators at rural health care centers throughout the First District and am proud of the fine work they do to serve their patients. I will continue to do everything I can to provide the people of North Mississippi with the health services they need."

The Congressman's visits this week included the Mantachie Rural Health Care Clinic, Smithville Access Family Health Services, the Williams Medical Clinic in Holly Springs, and North Benton County Health Care in Ashland.

Congressman Childers has supported several measures to promote access to quality health

care, including medical service in specifically rural areas. The Congressman is an original cosponsor of the 21st Century Rural Health Care Act (H.R. 6351), a loan incentive program to bring care to areas that need it most. H.R. 6351 authorizes funding for the National Health Services Corps (NHSC), a medical school scholarship and loan repayment program for doctors and providers who choose to serve areas that have been designated as health care shortage zones. Currently, there are 18 counties in Mississippi's First District that have been labeled as shortage areas.

Last month, Congressman Childers voted with the House to successfully override the President's veto of legislation that would prevent reimbursement rate cuts for doctors who treat Medicare patients. The Senate previously passed the legislation, entitled the Medicare Improvements for Patients and Providers Act of 2008 (H.R. 6331), which won House approval in June by an overwhelming bipartisan majority of 355-59. Congressman Childers voted for the original passage of the bill on June 24.

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